

# MSFC Safety Bulletins

## If It's Not Designed For It... Don't Do It!!!

### What Happened?

An alert employee left an MSFC building, and noticed smoke issuing from the cigarette butt receptacle near the entrance. She grew concerned as the amount of smoke increased. Two custodians helped investigate the source of the excessive smoke.

### What Caused This Incident?

A **smoldering paper napkin** was found inside the container. The fire was put out, preventing any damage that could have resulted.

### What Lessons Can We Learn?

- ➔ These containers are designed and labeled to collect cigarette and cigar butts **ONLY**.
- ➔ The design limits the oxygen that reaches the smoldering butts, and extinguishes them. This may not work for other types of burning trash.
- ➔ Other trash may burn at temperatures above the container design limits, causing containers to melt or ignite.
- ➔ Putting paper trash in these containers threatens fire safety for the whole building.



### How Do We Prevent This From Happening Again?

- ▶ Never put anything in these containers except cigarette and cigar butts.
- ▶ Stop others from putting trash in these containers, and explain the fire danger to them.
- ▶ **READ** and **OBEY** container labels! (If the manufacturer pays to label their product, the message is one we need to know!)
- ▶ Use proper containers for paper waste -- usually just a few feet away, inside the building entrance.
- ▶ Don't use products for purposes that they weren't designed to serve -- you won't be protected by built-in safety features!

